

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1           1.       A system for personalizing an electrical device, comprising:  
2           an electrical device having a plurality of button openings that are adapted to  
3           receive buttons that control operation of the electrical device; and  
4           a plurality of removable buttons that can be interchangeably disposed within  
5           the button openings of the electrical device, the buttons being provided with a variety  
6           of discrete features so as to be selectable by a user for provision on the electrical  
7           device in an arrangement chosen by the user to personalize the device as desired by  
8           the user.

1           2.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2           of colors.

1           3.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2           of icons.

1           4.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2           of textures.

1           5.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2           of shapes.

1           6.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise a variety  
2 of tactile qualities.

1           7.       The system of claim 1, wherein the button features comprise Braille  
2 indicia.

1           8.       An electrical device, comprising:  
2           a plurality of button openings adapted to receive buttons that can be used to  
3 control operation of the electrical device; and  
4           a plurality of removable buttons, the buttons being encoded so as to be  
5 configured to identify a particular functionality to the electrical device when disposed  
6 within a button opening of the device such that particular buttons can be used to  
7 initiate particular functionalities irrespective of the button opening in which it is  
8 disposed.

1           9.       The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the buttons are mechanically  
2 encoded.

1           10.      The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the buttons are electrically  
2 encoded.

1           11.      The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the buttons are provided with  
2 discrete features so as to be selectable by a user for provision on the electrical device  
3 in an arrangement chosen by the user to personalize the device as desired by the user.

1           12.    The electrical device of claim 8, wherein the functionalities pertain to  
2   emitting particular sounds when the buttons are depressed.

1           13.    An electrical device, comprising:  
2           a plurality of button openings adapted to receive buttons that can be used to  
3   control operation of the electrical device; and  
4           functionality sensing elements provided in the button openings that are  
5   adapted to determine a particular functionality that is associated with encoded,  
6   removable buttons that can be disposed within the button openings.

1           14.    The electrical device of claim 13, wherein the functionality sensing  
2   elements comprise pin openings adapted to receive pins of the removable buttons.

1           15.    A removable button adapted for interchangeable use with an electrical  
2   device, the button being encoded so as to be assigned a particular functionality such  
3   that when the button is disposed within a button opening of the electrical device, the  
4   electrical device can determine the assigned functionality and will be configured to  
5   initiate the functionality when the button is depressed.

1           16.    The electrical device of claim 15, wherein the buttons are mechanically  
2   encoded.

1           17.    The electrical device of claim 15, wherein the buttons are electrically  
2   encoded.

1           18.    A method for personalizing an electrical device having a plurality of  
2    button openings that are adapted to receive interchangeable, encoded buttons,  
3    comprising the steps of:  
4            receiving selection of a particular device functionality to be associated with a  
5    particular encoded button; and  
6            assigning the selected device functionality to the encoded button such that  
7    when the encoded button is disposed within a button opening of the electrical device  
8    and depressed, the selected functionality will be performed by the electrical device.

1           19.    The method of claim 18, wherein the step of receiving selection of a  
2    particular device functionality comprises receiving selection of a particular sound that  
3    is to be emitted by the electrical device when the encoded button is depressed.

1           20.    The method of claim 18, wherein the selected functionality will be  
2    performed by the electrical device when the encoded button is depressed irrespective  
3    of the particular button opening in which the button is disposed.

1           21.    A method for personalizing an electrical device, comprising the steps  
2 of:  
3           receiving a record command input by a user;  
4           detecting selection of various device buttons after receiving the record  
5 command, each device button being associated with a discrete device functionality;  
6 and  
7           assigning each of the functionalities associated with the selected buttons to a  
8 further button so that the further button is programmed to initiate performance of each  
9 of the functionalities when depressed by a user.

1           22.    The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of receiving a  
2 selection of a button to be programmed from the user and assigning the functionalities  
3 to the selected button.